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2008
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August 5,
PR # 08-94

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY REPORTS
FIRST HUMAN WEST NILE VIRUS CASE IN 2008**

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County has confirmed its first human West Nile Virus (WNV) case of the 2008 season. As of August 1, 2008 there have been 30 human cases in 8 Counties in California.

There is an intense WNV transmission ongoing in southern California. Most of these activities are reflected in our vector control surveillance reports as indicated by WNV positive chickens, dead birds and mosquito pools.

West Nile Virus can be prevented. The most effective way to prevent WNV is to avoid exposure to mosquitoes. To prevent further cases of WNV, the Department of Public Health encourages people to take the following precautions:

- **DEET** - Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaradin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535 according to label instructions. Repellents keep the mosquitoes from biting you. DEET can be used safely on infants and children 2 months of age and older.
- **DRESS** - Wear clothing that reduces the risk of skin exposure. When outdoors, wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.
- **DAWN AND DUSK** - Mosquitoes that carry WNV bite in the early morning and evening so it is important to wear repellent at this time. Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens that are torn or have holes.
- **DRAIN** - Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property, including flower pots, old car tires, rain gutters and pet bowls. If you have a pond, use mosquito fish or commercially available products to eliminate mosquito larvae.

Most individuals who are infected with West Nile Virus will not experience any illness. Individuals 50 years of age and older have a higher chance of getting sick and are more likely to develop serious symptoms when infected with WNV. Recent data also indicate

that those with diabetes and/or hypertension are at greatest risk for serious illness. Symptoms of WNV include fever, rash, headaches and body aches. The public is advised to seek medical attention if they experience symptoms that could be from WNV.

Horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about vaccinating their horses as horses are susceptible to WNV too.

San Bernardino County residents are encouraged to report standing bodies of water including stagnant and neglected pools or ponds to the San Bernardino County Vector Control Program at **800-44-ABATE (800-442-2283)**. Residents that live in Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario or Rancho Cucamonga should report stagnant water to the West Valley Mosquito and Vector Control district at (909) 635-0307. San Bernardino County residents can also participate in WNV surveillance activities by reporting dead birds to the State West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at **(877) WNV-BIRD** or online at [**WWW.WNV.CA.GOV**](http://WWW.WNV.CA.GOV).